

Applicant: Zylka et al.
Application No.: 09/753,544

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 14 have been amended to define the scope of the present invention more particularly and distinctly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,914 to Redfern (hereinafter "Redfern") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,671,714 to Weyer et al. (hereinafter "Weyer"). Claims 2, 5, 6, 11-13, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redfern in view of Weyer and U.S. Patent No. 6,256,663 to Davis (hereinafter "Davis"). Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redfern in view of Weyer, Davis and U.S. Patent No. 6,490,575 to Berstis (hereinafter "Berstis"). Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redfern in view of Weyer and Berstis. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redfern in view of Weyer, Berstis, and Davis.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that the element "a second search unit" of claim 1 of the present invention has been disclosed by Redfern because in accordance with Redfern, after the search engine queries the database, it returns "hits (element 42)", and these "hits" are then passed to the "Search Results

"Filter", where it is combined into a single list and redundancies are removed. The Examiner reasoned that in order for the "Search Results Filter" to remove redundancies it must search through the "hits" to compare the "hits" to each other, and this corresponds to "the second search unit" of claim 1 of the present invention, which analyzes the first output information and generates a second output. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 of the present invention, as presently amended, comprises two separate databases, a first database and a second database. The second database contains information which is more extensive than information contained in the first database (i.e., includes at least some information that is not included in the first database). A first search unit retrieves information related to a user's request from the first database to generate a first output, and a second search unit analyzes the first output and retrieves information related to the first output from the second database to generate a second output which includes additional information which is not included in the first output.

In contrast, Redfern fails to disclose two separate databases wherein the second database contains information which is more extensive than information contained in the first database, and also fails to disclose two separate search units such that a second search unit generates an output which includes additional information which is not included in the first output.

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The Examiner asserts that the "Search Results Filter" of Redfern corresponds to the "second search unit" of the present invention because the "hits" are passed to the Search Results Filter which generates a combined single list after removing redundancies. In order to remove the redundancies, the Search Results Filter has to search through the "hits" to compare the "hits" to each other. However, the target database of the Search Results Filter does not contain information more extensive than information contained in "Information Sources", and does not generate an output which includes additional information which is not included in the first output from the "Search Engines".

Moreover, the Search Results Filter in Redfern does not perform a search, but merely generates a combined list by just removing redundancies. The list generated by the Search Results Filter contains inherently the same list, but without duplicate items. Therefore, the Search Results Filter clearly does not perform the same function as the second search unit of the present invention, which generates totally different search results from a separate database including additional search results. Therefore, claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from Redfern.

The Examiner asserts that Weyer teaches a webpage unit for receiving a first and second output and selectively displaying said outputs on a web page. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner indicates that Weyer teaches that the interface server provides a list of information retrieved from the database to the user as a pop-up, and the

"web page unit" is the interface server and "selectively displaying signals on a webpage" is the list as a pop-up box. However, the pop-up window does not display two separate search results, (i.e., the first output and the second output which includes additional information which is not included in the first output). The pop-up window merely displays a single search result generated from a contact data base.

The Examiner also asserts that Weyer teaches an output unit for generating an email to said user which includes the address of said web page. Weyer discloses as follows:

At step 535, the interface server sends the recipient an e-mail informing the recipient that a sender has visited the recipient's website. ... the e-mail may also contain instructions informing the recipient of how the recipient may access .. the recipient's created website. (Emphasis added)

(See column 6, lines 13-21). In Weyer, a new web page is generated by the system, if a member (i.e., a recipient) does not have a web page. This newly created web page is displayed to a user, and it is also notified to a recipient by an email. In the present invention, a new web page is generated with two search results, and an address of said web page is sent to a user by an email. In contrast, in Weyer, a new web page of a recipient is not generated with two search results and the address of the web page is not sent to a user, but to the recipient.

The present invention teaches a scheme for delivering both solicited and unsolicited information through an email prompt. The present invention provides

two separate databases and performs two separate searches for the solicited and unsolicited information, respectfully and generates a web page with two separate search outputs and sends an email to a user with a prompt for the created web page. In contrast, Redfern fails to disclose two separate data bases and two separate search units. Weyer also fails to disclose a web page unit for generating a web page with two search results and an output unit for sending an email with an address of said web page to the user.

Therefore, claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from both Redfern and Weyer, and allowable over Redfern in view of Weyer.

With respect to independent claims 5, 8, 10, 12 and 14, these claims have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1, and Redfern and Weyer have been cited as a main reference for these claims. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that claims 5, 8, 10, 12 and 14 are also clearly distinguishable from Redfern and Weyer and allowable for the same reason stated above.

With respect to claim 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15, these claims are dependent claims. Therefore, it is believed that claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 are also allowable for the same reason stated above.

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Conclusion

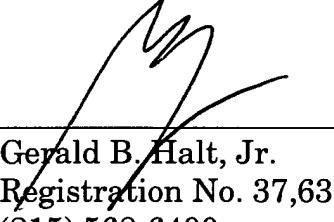
For the above reasons provided above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-15 are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner does not believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 215-568-6400.

Respectfully submitted,

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